

no 7

P.

#26

Paper March 3

W. S. H

Dress

An Essay

on

Gynaeche Trachealis or Group

By

Correll Humphrey

— December 1813 —

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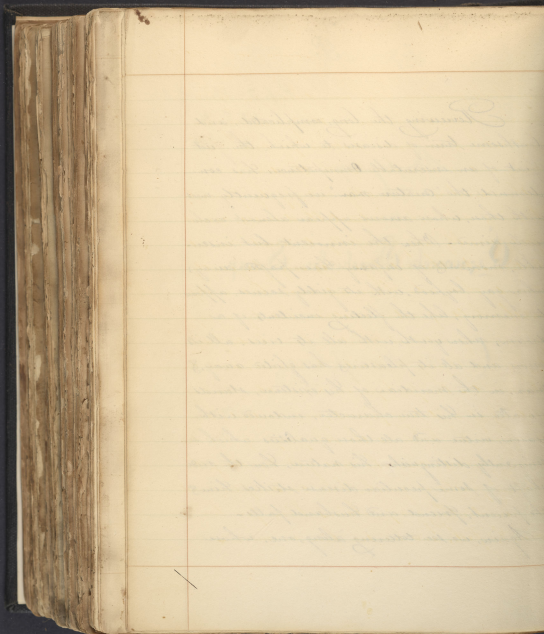
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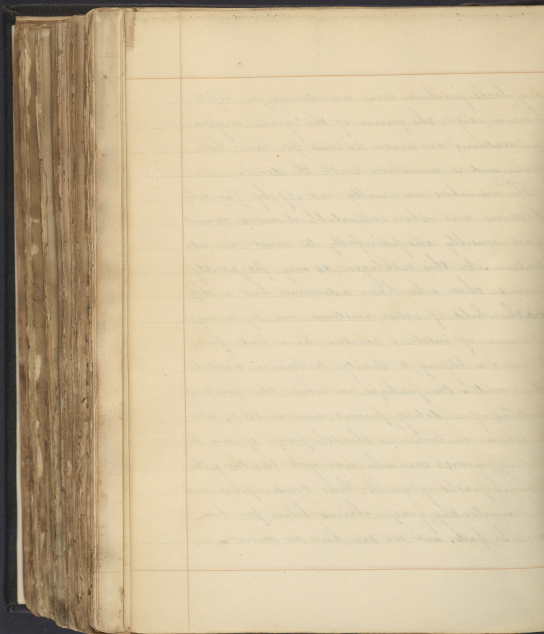
Reviewing the long, complicated, and
loathsome train of diseases to which the just
Fiat of an inscrutable Omnipotence, has con-
demned the "creature man," we frequently meet
with those, whose arrows appear almost exclu-
sively aimed - When the innocent, but insen-
sible, moments of infancy have passed away;
when gay boyhood, with its giddy scenes, appears
to memory, like the fleeting incidents of a
dream; when youth, with all its vices, all its
errors, and all its pleasures has glided away, &
man, in the meridian of his existence, stands
revealed in his true character, endowed with
reason, virtue and all those qualities which so
eminently distinguishes his nature; when the sub-
sistent of some peculiar disease strikes him &
the parent, friend, and husband falls -

Again, we see tottering along, one, whose

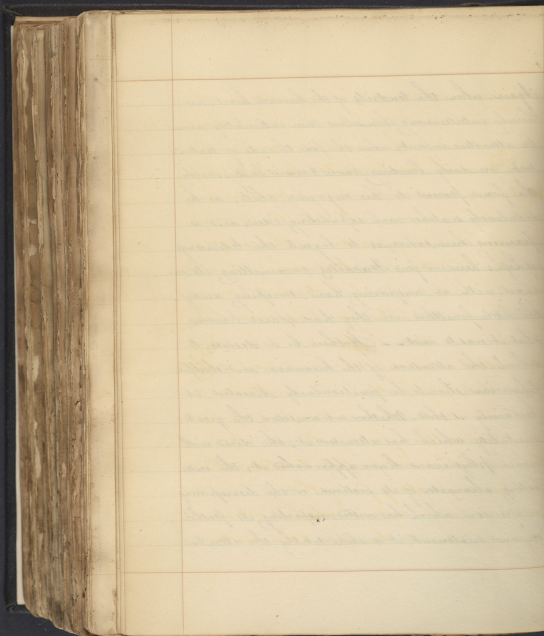


grey locks, proclaim him wandering, on life's narrow verge; the quiver of the "grim messenger" contains an arrow destined for him; his senes, and is numbered with the dead.

The numbers annually cut off by Fever, by Phthisis and other intractable diseases, cannot fail, sensibly and painfully to arrest our attention. In this catalogue, is very frequently found, those who have advanced but a step ~~on~~ threshold of active existence, but, by a rapid expansion of intellect & virtue, have bade fair to prove a blessing to Society, to Science, and to the world. One, perhaps, in whom the fond affections of a doting parent, were centered, and to whom he looked as the sole prop of his declining years; one, who was yet breathing the flowery breaths of youth; here Consumption, with her unrelenting grasp, claims him for her own; he falls, and we see him no more.

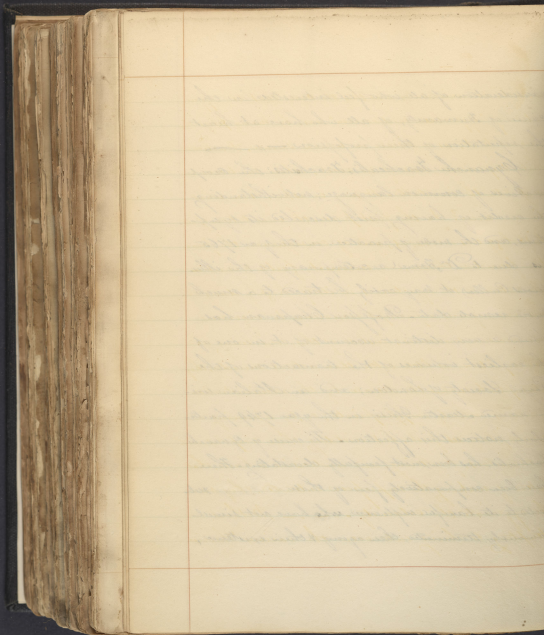


Again, when the tendrils of the human heart, are
thinly intertwining themselves more intimately around
the attractive infant; when the fine threads of Nature's
web, are daily binding more & more indissolubly,
the fond parent to his engaging child, as he
sedulously watches each expanding idea, and is
framing new schemes to beguile the tediousness
of life; here we find Thachitis committing its sa-
vages, with an unparrying hand, sweeping away
the little prattlers, ere they had scarce known
what it was to exist. - If there be a disease, to
which, the attention of the humane and skillful
physicians should be particularly directed, it
certainly is this. Whether we consider the great
mortality which has attended it; the dread with
which physicians have approached it; the inter-
esting character of its victims, or the discrepancy
of opinion, which has existed, respecting its pathol-
ogy and treatment, it is alike worthy the attention

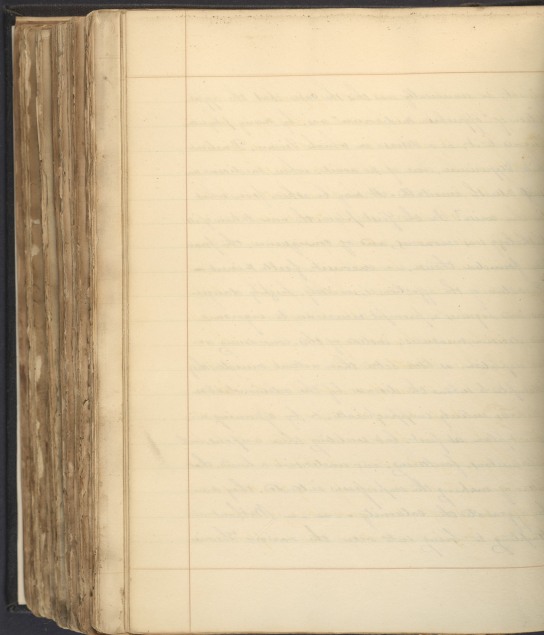


consideration of all who feel interested in the
cause of Humanity; of all who have at heart
the reputation of their profession — " —

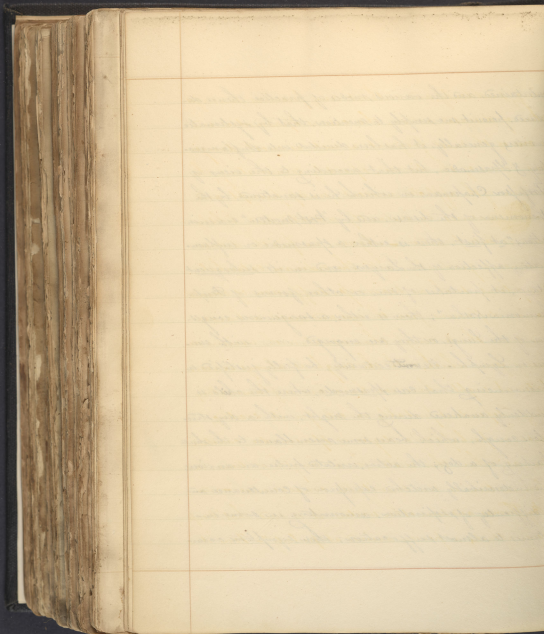
Cynanche Trachealis; *Tracheitis*; the croup
or whoops of common language; notwithstanding
the credit of having first described its symp-
toms, and the mode of practice, in the year 1765
is due to Dr. Hume, a contemporary of the illus-
trious Cullen; it may easily be traced to a much
more remote date. Professor Chapman has
found a very distinct account of it, in one of
the earliest volumes of the transactions of the
Royal Society of London; and an Italian writ-
ter named Martin Ghisli in the year 1749 particu-
larly notices this affection. The course of *Cynanche*
Trachealis, has been most fearfully devastating. There
have been comparatively few of those who have been sub-
jected to its baneful influence, who have not simulta-
neously terminated their agony & their existence;



in fact, so universally was this the case that the appellation of "opprobria medicorum" was, by many physicians assigned to it; as a disease in which Science, Fractious Skill & Experience, were of no avail; when medicine was useless & death inevitable. It may be asked, from what did this arise? In the first place, the view taken of its Pathology was erroneous, and of consequence, the practice founded thereon, was incorrect, feeble & inert - The nature of the affection is, in itself, highly dangerous, and requires a prompt recurrence to vigorous and decisive measures; instead of this, considering active depletion, as little better than actual murder, they attempted to subdue the disease by the administration of articles entirely inappropriate; or, by assuming a correct plan at first, but withholding their weapons, with so tremulous, faulting, and undecisive a hand, that instead of making the impression intended, they rather aggravated the calamity - " - " - Without attempting to bring into view the various Theories



entertained, and the various modes of practice thence de-
duced, permit me simply to mention, that by systematic
writers generally, it has been divided into Inflammation
& Spasmodic, but that according to the views of
Dorsetter Chapman, in which he is sanctioned, by the
Phenomena of the disease, and by "Post mortem" exami-
nations; "at first, there is either a spasmodic or inflam-
matory affection of the Larynx, and in its subsequent
stages, it partakes of one, or other forms of Scir-
rhous & Osteo"; then is either a sanguineous conges-
tion of the Lungs, or they are engorged with mu-
cus or Lymph. - I must certainly, be fully justified in
pronouncing that case Spasmodic, where the child is
suddenly awakened during the night, with a dry strid-
ulous cough, which bears some resemblance to the whis-
tling of a dog; the active, irritated pulse, an anxious,
and indescribably wretched expression of countenance and
a difficulty of respiration, amounting in some in-
stances to almost suffocation; these symptoms occur

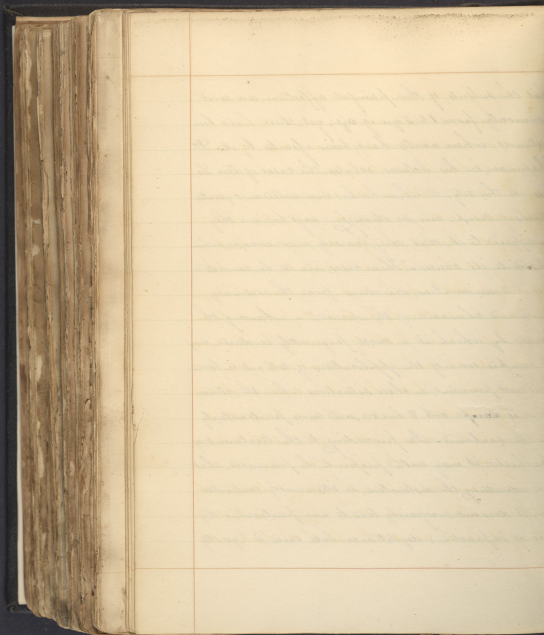


ring suddenly, and without any previous manifestation of diseased action, the case is Spasmodic, and is one of the most frequent, as well as most dangerous forms of the disease, speedily terminating the existence of the afflicted innocent, unless prompt and active measures be instantly adopted, and boldly carried into practice - Again, we find the disease advancing gradually, with the ordinary catarrhal symptoms, such as heaviness, suffusion of countenance, discharges from the eyes and nose, a harder and more shrill cough than usual, with various degrees of fever, which, with the cough is always exacerbated at night; here we have an inflammatory stage, dependent probably on cold, for its exciting cause, or perhaps, on a degree of Spasmodic constriction, as, when this exists for a length of time, inflammation is an inevitable consequence -

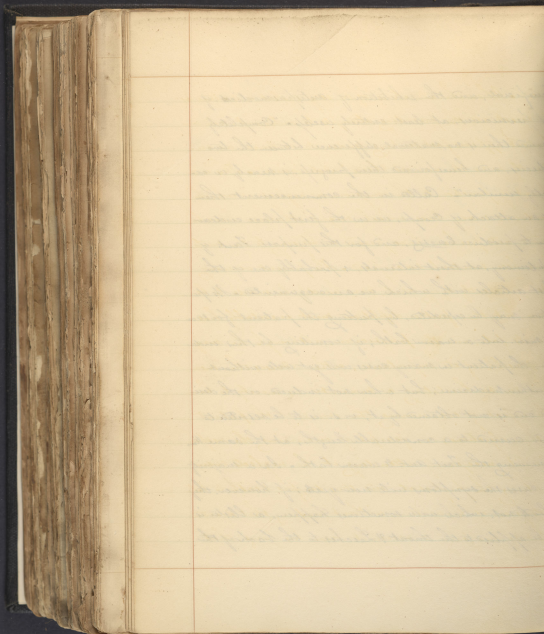
By Thomas and some other writers, it is said, that "Croup never attacks a person arrived at puberty" - True it is

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that the subjects of this painful affection, are most commonly, from 1 to 5 yrs. of age; yet, there have been instances, where adults have been assailed by it. Dr. Chapman, in his lectures, relates the cases of two Ladies in this city, to whom he has been called in repeated attacks of Croup, and so strongly (says he) are they predisposed to it, that they scarcely ever escape when exposed to its causes. "These cases are to be considered rare and anomalous, deviations from the ordinary course and character of the disease". Among the causes by which it is most frequently induced, may be ranked some of the applications of cold; it is found to be most prevalent in those situations where the atmosphere is damp, cold & austere, and more particularly on the seacoast. In proceeding to the treatment of Tracheitis, it may with propriety be premised, that even admitting the distinction, so strenuously contended for, it does not necessarily lead to any particular difference in practice; depletion in both cases is equally



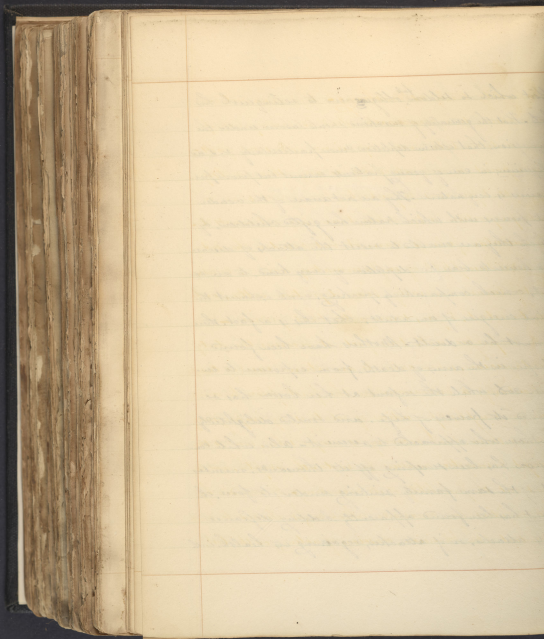
beneficial, and the exhibition of antispasmodics, if
not pernicious, at least entirely useless. - "Completely
formed there is no material difference between the two
species, and henceforward their progress, is nearly or ex-
actly similar". Called in the commencement then,
of an attack of Croup, we in the first place endeavor
our to produce Emesis, and for this purpose Tart. of
Antimony, at short intervals, is probably one of the
best articles with which we are acquainted. Its opera-
tion may be expedited, by putting the patient for 10 or
15 min. into a warm bath; if vomiting be thus indu-
ced, the patient in many cases will get well without
further medicine; but when not induced, or the desi-
red end is not obtained by it, v. s. is to be resorted to
and carried to a considerable length, at the same time
renewing the Tart. Ant. & warm bath. In a majority
of cases the symptoms will now yield; if however, they
should not, which will sometimes happen, a blister is
to be applied to the throat & Leeches to the back of the



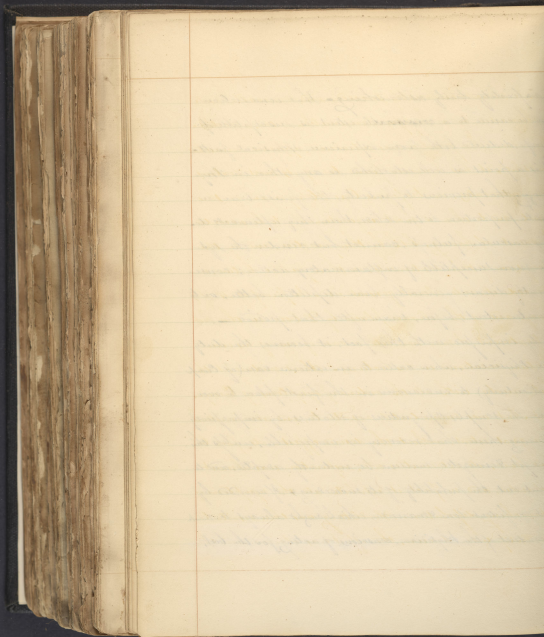
neck. When the attack is of so very violent a nature as to resist all the preceding attempts to subvert it, and our patient appears fast sinking under its violence, we instantly seize the Lancet & bleed "ad deliquium". This is a point of practice, to the omission, or neglect of which no doubt many lives, which might otherwise have been saved, and perhaps have proved a blessing to the world, have been wantonly sacrificed. The parent viewing its apparently dying child, can hardly be made to believe, but that further depletion must inevitably hasten its fall; and the physician, although he may be sensible of its importance, either advises the measure in so hesitating a manner, as merely to have the effect of confirming the friends of the patient in their objections; or, fearful of incurring the responsibility necessarily attending it, he neglects even making the proposal, and thus suffers death to take possession of his victim, without making that decided effort so necessary to rescue it from his grasp; that

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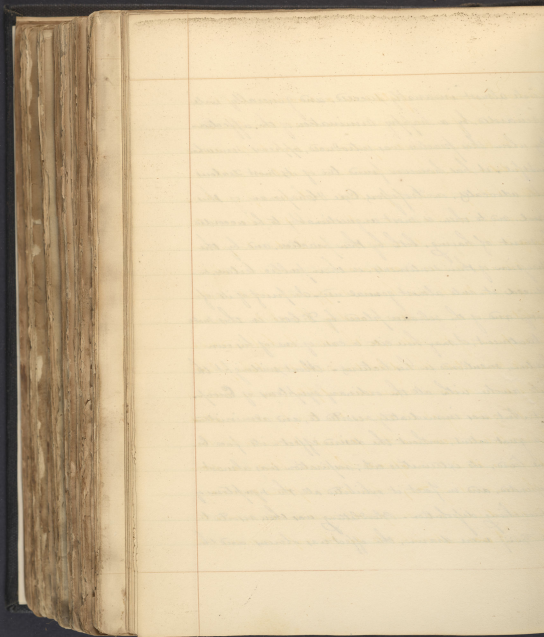
effort which is seldom ^{lost} obliging him to relinquish his
labour. That the generality of mankind should labour under the
impression, that extreme depletion more particularly is a dis
advantage in case of young patients, cannot but prove per-
nicious is very natural. They are not aware of the wonder-
ful powers with which nature has gifted children, by
which they are enabled to resist the attacks of disease
and hence to bear an depletion of every kind, to an ex-
tent, which comparatively speaking, would exhaust the
vital energies of an adult; that this is a fact, there
cannot be a doubt. Mothers have been found
clasped in the arms of death, from exposure to in-
tense cold, while the infant at her bosom has re-
tained its powers of life, and smiled delightedly
on those who approached to rescue it - also while con-
tagion has been sweeping off its thousands, number
out of the same family sinking under its force, the
infant has been found apparently biding defiance
to its attacks, or if attacked, regaining its health with



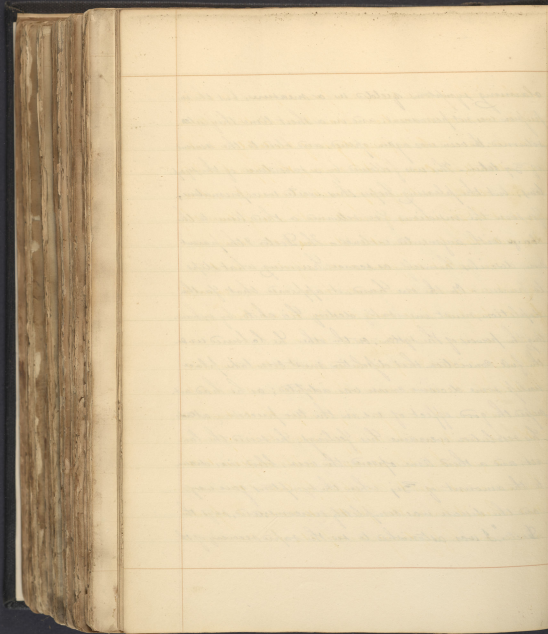
a rapidity truly astonishing - That a section
may be carried to a considerable extent is susceptible of
proof, deduced both from experience & physical facts -
It is a point as well established as any other in Phy-
siology, that previous to puberty, the fluids bear a
greater proportion to the solids, than they afterwards do -
This vascular fulness, cannot but render the sys-
tem more susceptible of inflammatory action; conse-
quently diseases generally bear depletion better, or to
a greater extent, before, than after that period -
Fully impressed with this fact, it becomes the duty
of a Physician, when called to an extreme case (of course
particularly) to endeavour in the first place to over-
come the scruples & prejudices of relatives, by impressing
upon them, that recovery is impossible, unless this
prompt & energetic measure be instantly adopted, and to
point out the probability of its succeeding - If seconded by
that confident tone & manner, which ought always to mark
the conduct of the Physician, conscious of acting for the best.



be almost invariably success, and generally will be rewarded, by a happy termination of the affection. By whom this practice was introduced, appears somewhat doubtful; it has however found two of its most zealous & able advocates, in Professors Cope & Chapman of this school, and to them is most unquestionably to be accorded the merit of having, both by their practice, and by the expression of their sentiments, in their public lectures, introduced it, into almost general use. In proof of its efficacy, and of the reliance placed by F. Cope in this mode of treatment, I may here cite a case of one of his own children, mentioned in his lectures. About midnight the child awoke with all the ordinary symptoms of Enteric Ant. Ant. was immediately resorted to, and administered to a great extent, without the desired effect - its face became livid; its extremities cold; respiration was almost suspended, and in fact it exhibited all the symptoms of approaching dissolution. Bloodletting was then resorted to, and 3iij were drawn; the effect was obvious, and the

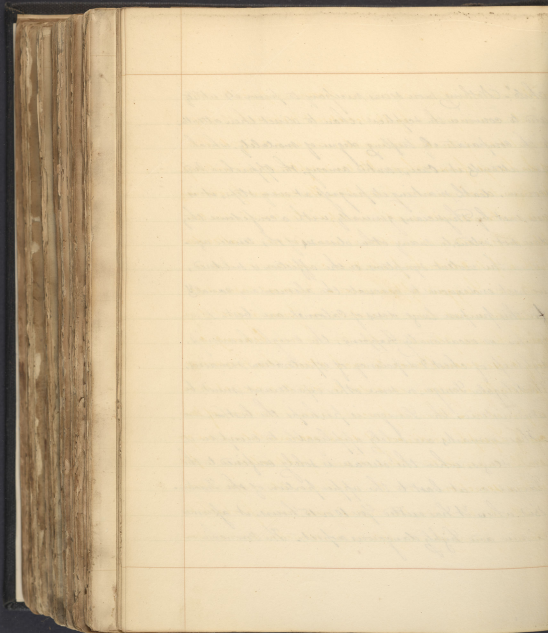


alarming symptoms yielded in a measure, but the im-
provement was not permanent; and in a short time they all
returned; the vein was again opened, and blood to the amount
of 3ij taken. This was followed by a subsidence of the symp-
toms; but the pleasing hopes thus excited were premature,
for soon the insidious foe returned a third time to the
stage with augmented violence. The Doctor & the parent
now describe himself, as scarce knowing what steps
to pursue. On the one hand, it appeared that farther
depletion must inevitably destroy his child, by exhaus-
ting the powers of the system; on the other he laboured under
the full conviction that dissolution must soon take place
unless some decisive course was adopted; as he had wit-
nessed the good effect of v.s. in the two preceding attacks
his resolution overcame his feelings; he seized the can-
net, and a third time opened the vein; blood was drawn
to the amount of 3ij when the symptoms gave way,
and the disease was completely overcome, says the
Doctor, "I was astonished to see the rapid recovery of the

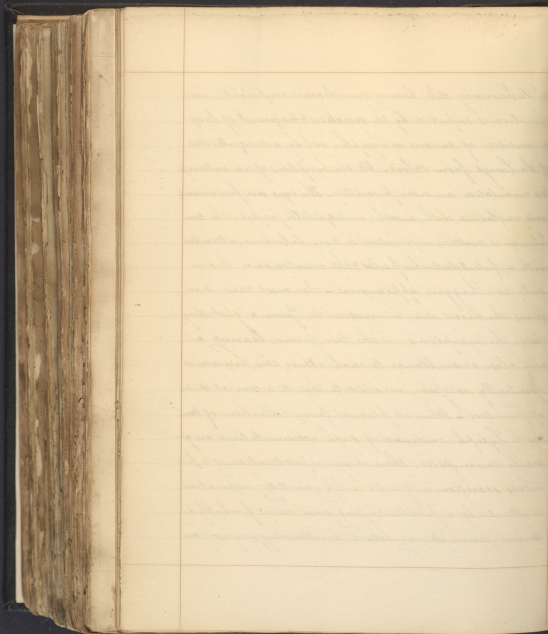


Child. - Nothing more seems necessary to prove its utility
and to convince the sceptical, than to direct their attention
to the comparatively trifling degree of mortality, which
now attends it. Once, scattered among the *Opportunists*
recurs, death, marking its progress at every step, it is
now met by Physicians generally, with a confidence they
dare not extend, to many other diseases of this tender age.
When the violent symptoms, or the affection is subdued,
we next endeavour to evacuate the alimentary canal &
for this purpose large doses of Calomel are best. If op-
to this, as occasionally happens, the cough, hoarseness,
tightness of chest, & deficiency of expectoration remains,
the *Soligala Senega*, or some other expectorant, must be
administered; the *Senega* is perhaps the best. -

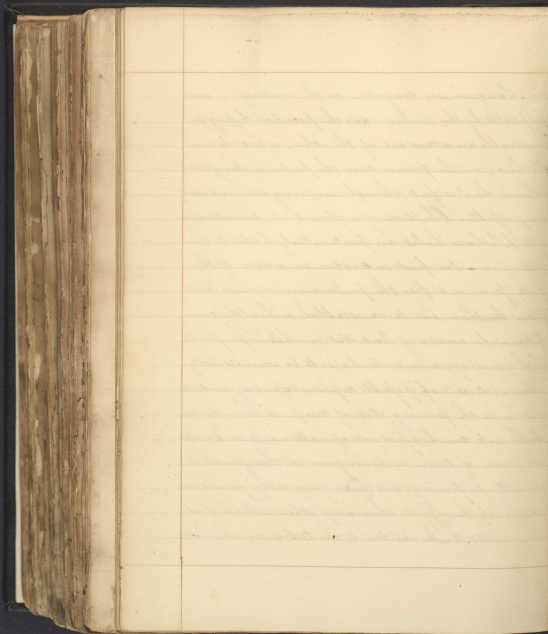
These remarks are solely applicable to Croup in its
early stages, when the disease is solely confined to the
Larynx, or at least to the upper portion of the Trachea.
But when it has existed for 10 or 15 hours, it assumes
a new and highly dangerous aspect. The *Bronchia* or



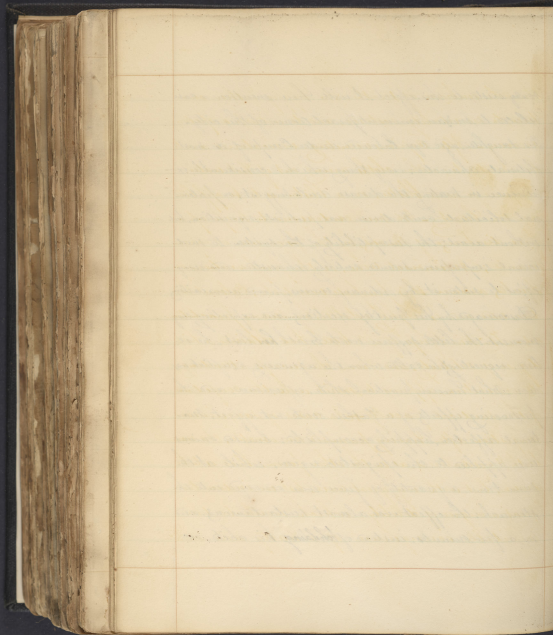
28. Pulmonary cells, having now become implicated, respiration is impeded by the secretion & clogment of large quantities of mucus or Lymph; or, by a congested state of the Lungs from blood. All the symptoms of an interrupted circulation are now presented. The eyes are prominent and inflamed, with, mostly, undilated pupil, the complexion is mottled, respiration is very laborious, attended with a full & disturbed pulse. The countenance has a white and haggard appearance. In most cases it requires the nicest discrimination to form a just diagnosis, the symptoms in the two forms, bearing a very close resemblance to each other; this, however is essentially necessary, in order to lead to a correct mode of practice. When it proceeds from collections of mucus or Lymph, evidences of such accumulations are generally manifested; there is an expectoration of a pituitous secretion, in greater or less quantity, respiration is attended by a peculiar hissing noise, caused probably by the air, forcing its way between the obstructing masses of mucus.



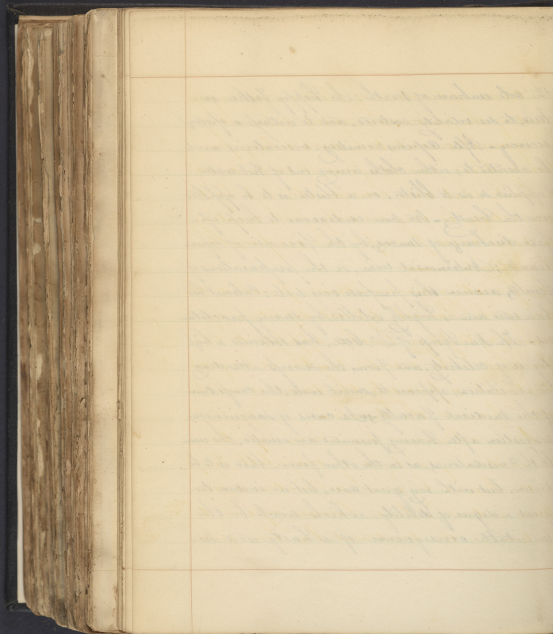
case. Languineous congestion, on the contrary, is accompanied by this discharge, and the peculiar "sifting" so invariable an attendant of the other, is not observed. Here, in the former case the pulse is languid whereas here² is full, though very irregular and easily compressible - Children of a florid countenance and plethoric habit are particularly liable to the latter form - Our first indication in a case of the first form, is to free the pulmonary organs from their burthen, and to re-establish a healthy circulation - An emetic of Tart. Ant. or what is preferable, of the juice of onion or Garlic, is to be immediately administered & if possible copious vomiting induced, and as in the forming stage of Croup, so here, the warm bath will much assist its operations. As an Emetic the power of Onion or Garlic juice at this juncture is really surprising, and have frequently proved more eminently successful than any other which has been resorted to. In addition to the testimony which al.



ready exists, to this effect, I will here mention a case
related to me by an eminent practitioner of this city.
His daughter, aged 2 yrs. laboured under Croup of a most
obstinate character; every thing which considerable ex-
perience in treating the disease could suggest, or paternal
solicitude could devise was put into requisition, but
without avail; the susceptibility of the system to medi-
cinal impression seemed entirely exhausted, and every
effort to sustain it, by ordinary means, proved unavailing.
Discouraged by his fruitless exertions, and expecting every
moment, the little sufferer would break her last, he re-
turned, requesting to be called when the agonizing conflict was
over; what however, practical skill, experience, and the
persevering efforts of a Father could not effect, Ma-
ternal affection, happily accomplished; bruised onions
were applied to the epigastric region, while at the
same time, a quantity of juice was conveyed into the
stomach; the effect was almost instantaneous, and
in a few minutes, instead of ~~breathing~~ his child, in



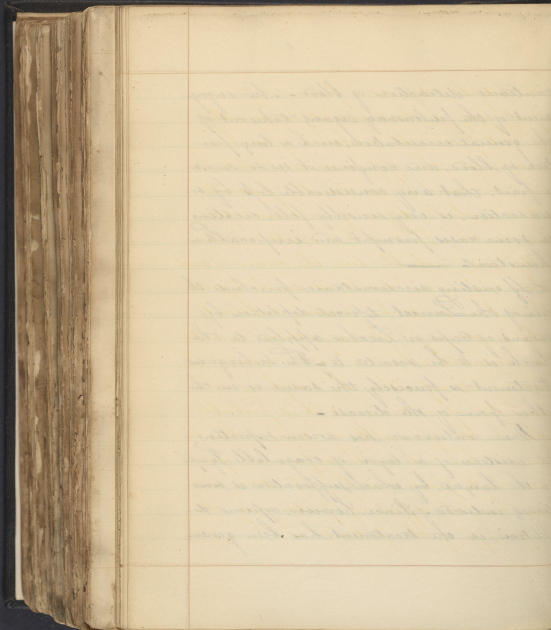
the cold embrace of death, the happy father on-
tains, to see vitality restored, and to witness a speedy
recovery - After copious vomiting, vesicatories are to
be resorted to; either cloths wrung out of hot water
& applied so as to blister, or, a blister is to be applied
over the heart - We now endeavour to keep up a
free discharge of mucus, by the free use of expec-
torants; Antimonial wine, or the preparations of
Squills answer this purpose very well; Calomel has
been used and is highly extolled, by many practition-
ers - The Skin Syrup of Dr. Syde, has obtained a high
degree of celebrity, and from the success attending
its exhibition, appears to merit well, the confidence
of the medical faculty - In cases of sanguineous
congestion after having promised an emetic, the use
both of vesicatories, as in the other form, blood is to be
drawn, but with very great care, lest we induce too
great a degree of debility, which would be the
inevitable consequence of a hasty and in-



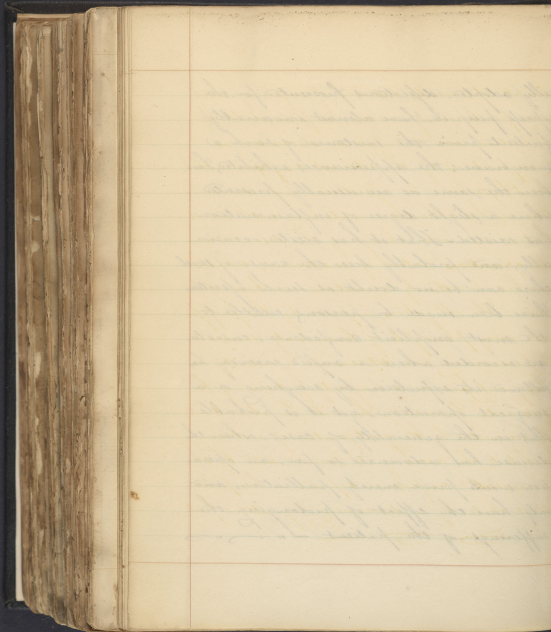
cautious subtraction of blood - An engorgement of the pulmonary organs "takes out of the general circulation, such a large portion of blood, and confines it in so small a space, that any considerable loss by section, is very sensibly felt, creating in some cases prompt and irreparable exhaustion".

If existing circumstances preclude the use of the Lancet, topical depletion by means of Cups or Leeches, applied to the back is to be resorted to. The subsequent treatment is precisely the same as in the other form of the disease -

Much controversy has arisen respecting the existence of a layer of coagulable Lymph in the Larynx, by which suffocation is sometimes induced. Since, however, copious depletion in the treatment has been gener-



ally adopted, dissections prosecuted for the
express purpose, have almost invariably
failed to prove the existence of such a
membrane; the appearances exhibited, have
been the same as are usually presented
where a slight degree of inflammation
has existed. That it has existed, occasion-
ally, and probably been the cause of death
there can be no doubt as such assertions
have been made by persons entitled to
the most implicit confidence; cases too,
are recorded where a rapid recovery has
followed its expulsion by coughing or a
surgical operation; yet it is probable
that in the generality of cases, where the
disease has advanced so far, an opera-
tion would prove merely palliative, and
only have the effect of prolonging the
sufferings of the patient — " — "



In all the acute diseases of infancy and more particularly, in one, so formidable in its nature and so rapid in its career as Croup it is of the utmost consequence that the Physician be assiduous and unremitting in his attentions, watching with an attentive eye every change of the disease, and the ~~operations~~ action of medicines which are here peculiarly uncertain in their operation - The obligations imposed by his profession and every principle of Humanity demand a persevering and determined assiduity on his part, and in a majority of cases, if he acts with firmness, he will be abundantly rewarded by the gratification of restoring a child to the arms of its Parents, and by the increased confidence reposed in his practical skills by a discerning & grateful public

O " O "

The average of the 10 years

1880-1889

1890-1899

1900-1909

1910-1919

1920-1929

The average of the 10 years

1880-1889

1890-1899

1900-1909

1910-1919

1920-1929

1930-1939

1940-1949

